

owners nationwide—a number that has well surpassed the original group of 160 members. It is with great pleasure that I recognize the commendable service NSBA has provided to this Nation's entrepreneurs over the past 70 years.

As Chair of the Small Business Committee, I am well aware of the unique plight facing this Nation's entrepreneurs. As the oldest small business advocacy group in the United States, NSBA has a strong history of promoting small business growth and educating its members on the impact of Federal policies. The unwavering dedication that this group has shown to fostering the advancement and growth of entrepreneurs is deserving of recognition.

From carpenters to grocers and designers, NSBA represents a broad range of citizens who believe in the free enterprise system. Since joining the Small Business Committee well over a decade ago, this organization has frequently been out front, leading the charge on a number of issues that are of the utmost importance to this Nation's 26 million small businesses. Whether it was advocating for increased access to capital or the Federal marketplace—NSBA has always acted as a steadfast advocate for our entrepreneurs.

Thanks to the leadership of the NSBA—its founder, the late DeWitt M. Emery, Board Members, Executive Director, staff, and supporters—its members are given the opportunity to gather every two years during the "Small Business Congress" to learn about the latest happenings impacting their businesses and vote upon their top ten. NSBA subsequently publishes its priority issues booklet listing the results and advocating on the members' behalf. NSBA's contributions that bring to light the everyday matters that are of concern to the main drivers of this economy—small business—are truly commendable.

Madam Speaker, I would like to express my sincerest congratulations to the National Small Business Association in commemoration of its 70th anniversary and express best wishes for a successful future.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
ALESSANDRA C. BRAUN ON HER  
APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE  
UNITED STATES MILITARY  
ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Alessandra C. Braun of Fremont, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Alessandra's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2011. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Alessandra brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending St. Joseph Central Catholic High School in Fremont, Ohio, Alessandra attained a grade point average which placed her near the top of her class. While a gifted athlete, Alessandra has maintained the highest standards of excellence in her academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Alessandra has been a member of the National Honor Society, Honor Roll, Mock Trial and Science Club and has earned numerous awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Alessandra has distinguished herself as an excellent student-athlete. On the fields of competition, she has earned varsity letters in swimming and volleyball where she served as the co-captain of the varsity team. Alessandra's dedication and service to the community and her peers have proven her ability to excel among the leaders at West Point. I have no doubt that Alessandra will take the lessons of her student leadership with her to West Point.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alessandra C. Braun on her appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Alessandra will do very well during her career at West Point and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing her well as she begins her service to the Nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LISA PHILIPS

**HON. JON C. PORTER-**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lisa Philips, R.N., who has distinguished herself as an outstanding and devoted professional in her field as a Registered Nurse.

Lisa Philips has been a Registered Nurse for over 28 years. In 2003, Lisa joined the staff at Summerlin Hospital as a Charge Nurse where she was responsible for incoming patients' ability to see a physician in a timely manner. In 2006, Lisa was promoted to House Supervisor where her responsibilities include maintaining the patient flow of the entire hospital and ensuring that patients receive their needed care. Lisa is a committed and caring nurse who has a unique ability to communicate with physicians, patients, and their families. Lisa also personifies team values and is the embodiment of the Very Important Patient Program recently established at Summerlin Hospital. As a result of her commitment to excellence and outstanding service to her patients and colleagues, Lisa was recognized as Employee of the Year for 2006.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Lisa Philips, R.N. and her continued excellence at Summerlin Hospital. Her professional expertise and caring nature have greatly enriched the lives of those in the Las Vegas community. I commend Lisa for her efforts and commitment to her patients and to our community.

IN CELEBRATION OF ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY 2007

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Day 2007, and to celebrate the contributions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community to the growth and prosperity of Northeast Ohio.

Held May 15 and May 19, Heritage Day provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate the many contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the well-being of Northeast Ohio. I marvel at the beautiful ethnic and cultural diversity that has developed over the years, and I am grateful for the generations of immigrants who have brought to Cleveland the customs and rich heritage from every corner of Asia.

As Clevelanders forge ahead, building new institutions, relationships and bridges, it is my hope that future generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders will continue their invaluable contributions to our social, economic and cultural health.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Day, and honoring the contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the rich cultural tapestry of Northeast Ohio.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PAT AND BILL KESSLER, RECIPIENTS OF THE 2007 "CIRCLE OF CARE" AWARD

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pat and Bill Kessler, a couple who have worked together to improve the quality of life in their community. The Kesslers will be honored on May 31, 2007 as the recipients of the 2007 Circle of Care award from the Riverbend Head Start and Family Services in Alton, Illinois.

Bill Kessler retired last year after 33 years at St. Anthony's Heath Center in Alton, Illinois where he had served as the first lay administrator and longtime CEO of this institution founded by the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George. Pat was a registered nurse but has spent the past 35+ years that they have been in the Alton community raising their family of eight children and donating time to many organizations. They have both been willing, despite the significant demands of their work and family lives, to give back to their community and make meaningful contributions to the quality of life for those in the Alton area.

The Kesslers met while Pat was a student nurse and Bill was a college student working as an orderly in St. Louis. They were married in 1968 and spent their first years together overseas, with Bill serving in the U.S. Army after receiving his Masters Degree from St. Louis University. They came back to the St.